

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on December 6, 2006.

Claim 15 is amended; claim 20 is canceled; and no claims are added. As a result, claims 1-10, 12-19, 21-23, 25-26, 28, and 30 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 15-19 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonikber (U.S. 6,618,451) in view of Riss et al. (U.S. 2002/0007257, hereinafter “Riss”). Applicant does not admit that Gonikber or Riss is prior art, and reserves the right to swear behind these references in the future.

Claim 20 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 20 depends from independent claim 15. Claim 15 is therefore amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 20. Independent claim 15, as amended, reads:

A method for performing equalization within a communication system, comprising:

first processing a communication signal using a first equalizer;
determining a reduced alphabet based on a result of said first processing, wherein the reduced alphabet is of size K and wherein K is a positive integer; ~~and~~
second processing said communication signal using a reduced alphabet MLSE equalizer, said reduced alphabet MLSE equalizer operating on said communication signal based on said reduced alphabet; ~~and~~[[.]]
redetermining K for successive input symbols within said communication signal.

Claim 15, as amended, is thought to be non-obvious over the cited references and allowable as indicated by the Office under “Allowable Subject Matter,” below. A claim depending from a non-obvious claim is itself non-obvious. Claims 16-19 and 21 depend from claim 15. Claims 16-19 and 21 are thought to be non-obvious over Gonikber in view of Riss and allowable for at least these reasons. Notification to that effect is earnestly requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes the allowance of claims 1-10, 12-14, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 30.

Claim 20 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of claim 20 is incorporated into independent claim 15, from which it depends, by amendment herein. Claim 20 is canceled.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at 612-373-6900 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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